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Prognostic value of global tangential strain by three-dimensional echocardiography heart failure patients with intermediate ECG criteria for cardiac resynchronization therapy

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Background: In the current clinical guidelines, cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT) is recommended in heart failure (HF) patients with left bundle branch block (LBBB) with QRS width ≥ 150 ms as Class I indication. In terms of HF patients with intermediate ECG criteria, prediction for benefit of CRT is still controversial in routine echocardiography.

Purpose: The aim was to assess whether three-dimensional (3D) echocardiographic indexes of global LV function at baseline has a prognostic value following CRT implantation in patients who fulfilled with intermediate ECG criteria.

Methods: We studied 62 HF patients who fulfilled with the indication criteria of CRT implantation according to current the clinical guidelines. In addition to routine two-dimensional echo, 3D echo dataset was acquired for determination of 3D global tangential strain (GTS) and 3D global longitudinal strain (GLS). We tracked predefined unfavorable outcomes for 3 years after CRT implantation: death, hospitalization due to worsening HF. **Results:** LBBB with QRS width ≥ 150 ms was evident in 26 of 62 patients

(aged 68 ± 11 years with 160 ± 26 ms of QRS duration and $29 \pm 7\%$ of LV ejection fraction), and the other 36 patients only fulfilled intermediate ECG criteria (QRS width 120–149ms or non-LBBB). Unfavorable events occurred in 21 patients (34%). The median GTS was -15.4% . Although GLS was not predictive, GTS greater than -15.4% had high probability of unfavorable outcomes over 3 years (Log-rank, $p < 0.05$). There is no difference in the probability of unfavorable outcomes between LBBB and intermediate ECG criteria. Baseline GTS in patients with intermediate ECG criteria was associated with unfavorable outcomes: $-12.6 \pm 2.6\%$ vs. $-17.3 \pm 3.8\%$ ($p < 0.05$). Outcome was better in the intermediate ECG criteria patients with GTS $\leq -15.4\%$ than in those with LBBB and in those with intermediate ECG criteria patients with GTS $> -15.4\%$ (Log-rank: $p < 0.05$, $p < 0.0001$, respectively).

Conclusions: Baseline GTS by 3D echocardiography is useful for predicting outcome over 3 years after CRT implantation regardless of the ECG criteria for CRT indication.

